



APL41769

PRESS CONTACT:
Geoffrey Silver: 646-320-8425
geoffrey.silver@acisproductions.com

“...I am struck, as in recent years, by how much the small independent labels...have been breaking through with exciting recordings.”

ANTHONY TOMMASINI, *The New York Times*

SISTERS, FACE TO FACE: THE BACH LEGACY IN WOMEN’S HANDS

THE RARITAN PLAYERS

REBECCA CYPRESS, HARPSICHORD | YI-HENG YANG, FORTEPIANO

APL 41769 | 63:06 | DDD

Winner of the 2018 Noah Greenberg Award from the American Musicological Society for contributions to historical performance

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: This new album tells the story of how women of the 18th century shaped the legacy of the Bach family through their use of the harpsichord and fortepiano, the precursors to the modern pianoforte.

Previously, musicians have been taught that the fortepiano replaced the harpsichord suddenly and completely around 1780. But researcher Dr. Rebecca Cypess of Rutgers University has shown not only that these and other keyboard instruments coexisted happily for decades, *but also that they were often used together to play duets and double concertos.* (Some builders even created hybrid instruments that combined the “plucked” harpsichord with the “hammered” fortepiano in the same instrument, played from either end, hence the album’s title, “Face to Face”. Recreating this practice of 18th-century women, Rebecca Cypess and Yi-heng Yang perform music in this combination on their new release.

Dr. Cypess’s research forms the basis of this recording. Placing women’s music-making front and center, the recording has won the American Musicological Society’s only award for contributions to historical performance. Playing the music of Bach and his family in the fortepiano-harpsichord combination kept that music alive – and firmly in women’s hands. Salon hostesses experimented with the novel sounds possible with the combination of harpsichord and fortepiano – two instruments seemingly opposed to one another – performing duos with their family and friends. This practice led to four-hands piano performance in the 19th century.

As more work is being done to write women back into history, Dr Cypess’s in-depth research on this fascinating period of change uncovers an almost entirely forgotten episode from musical salons and drawing rooms, influencing composers and performers, and helping the Bach legacy survive into the Romantic era.

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LISTEN: <https://facetoface.hearnow.com> for Spotify, Amazon, iTunes, etc.

PRINTABLE CD COVERS: acisproductions.com/sisters-face-to-face/

#TraxTuesday

Critical acclaim for
In Sara Levy’s Salon
(APL00367)
The Raritan Players’
debut album:

BBC Radio 3
in-depth feature
interview
LUCIE SKEAPING
The Early Music
Show

“As ravishing as it is
fascinating...
A fascinating
concept,
brilliantly realised”
COLIN CLARKE
Classical Music,
5 stars

“Stellar Glimpse
Into Berlin
Salon...simply
mesmerizing”
KAREN COOK
Early Music America

The New York Times ‘best-of-2016’, ‘best-of-2014’ lists, and *The New Yorker* top ten albums of 2014